SENATE BILL 413 By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to the waiver of certain tuition and fees for teachers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section ____. (a) Full-time certified teachers in any public school in Tennessee are eligible for enrollment in one (1) course per term at any state-supported college or university or area vocational-technical school without paying tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees or registration fees.

- (b) Enrollment privileges may be limited or denied by the college, university or area vocational-technical school on an individual basis according to space availability. Enrollment under this section is on a first-come, first-served basis. No tuition-paying student shall be denied enrollment in a course because of the enrollment of a teacher pursuant to this section.
- (c) Courses taken under this section are governed by the academic rules and regulations of the institution or school offering the course(s).
- (d) The provisions of this section do not diminish or affect in any way the rights provided to full-time employees of the state university and community college system and the University of Tennessee in § 49-7-116.

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- (e) The Tennessee higher education commission is hereby directed, authorized and empowered to promulgate and adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including rules and regulations for the allocation of appropriations specifically appropriated for the implementation of the provisions of this section.
- (f) (1) The number of students permitted to attend classes beyond the limits established in this section or in the general appropriations act for any fiscal year shall be discounted from the effects of the higher education funding formula by the Tennessee higher education commission.
- (2) Any reimbursements to the state-supported colleges, universities or area vocational-technical schools for the enrollments provided by this section shall be limited to those funds specifically appropriated for that purpose in the general appropriations act. Such reimbursement shall be limited to assessed charges and fees of enrollment. SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.

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